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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

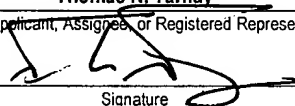


Application No.: 09/377,667
Applicant: Hiromu MUKAI
For: IMAGE PICKUP DEVICE
Confirmation No.: 8179
Customer No.: 24367
Docket No.: 15162/01020
Filed: August 19, 1999
Group Art Unit: 2615
Examiner: Brian C. Genco

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on	
December 30, 2004	Date of Deposit
Thomas N. Tarnay	Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered Representative
	Signature
December 30, 2004	Date of Signature

RESPONSE

This Response is filed in response to the Office Action dated December 1, 2004, which provides for a shortened statutory response period ending January 1, 2005.

The Office Action of December 1, 2004 imposed a requirement for election of species between the allegedly distinct species disclosed in the application as follows:

Species I: Figs. 1 and 5

Species II: Figs. 6-8.

By this response, applicants elect Species I (corresponding to Figs. 1 and 5) without traverse. Claims 1-3, 8-10 and 15 are within the elected species.

Application No.: 09/377,667
Amendment dated December 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 1, 2004

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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December 30, 2004